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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC) Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 3:30 PM City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm.
- 2. Roll Call: Members Present:** Rida Asfahani, R. Katherine Brennand, Ken Gorski, Marina Monsisvais, Jane Thomas, Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson.
Members Absent: Jesus Alvarado, Floyd Johnson, Martina Lorey, Ray Parish.
Others Present: Alejandra Carrillo, Misty Castaneda, Pat Dalbin.
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Approval of Minutes.** Chair asked for approval of the Minutes for the last meeting on November 8, 2011. Ken Gorski motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Discussion and Action on Ilan Averbuch's re-design concept for Fire Station #37 located on Gateway East off of Reynolds.** Pat Dalbin began by explaining that the artist has re-designed the piece for the fire station, and followed by describing it as a bucket made out of Cor-ten steel with water made out of stone being poured out the old-fashioned way to put out a fire. Pat mentioned that this was more consistent with his work, in that it has a sense of humor. The artist is proposing the piece be 20 feet high by 13 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Ken Gorski inquired about the artist's budget for this piece, and Pat replied it was \$70,000 in total. She went on to say that Alejandra Carrillo had called to find out what other agencies had paid for his work, and they each averaged \$100,000 or more. His budget includes installation, transportation and his design work. Katherine Brennand expressed her concern on the concept, saying that the bucket looked more like a cap. Pat reminded members that this was only conceptual and the architect has already expressed to the artist that the bucket needs to be made larger. Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson reiterated that it seemed disproportionate. Rida Asfahani stated he felt it was bland and without contrast to the building. Marina Monsisvais mentioned that the Fire Department personnel involved in the artist selection panel interpreted the stone aspect to be masculine and strong. General discussion on the concept and design followed. Pat closed the discussion by mentioning that the design concept was not meant to be literal, it is the artist's interpretation. Ken Gorski inquired as to whom the architect for this project is, and Pat replied it is Bill with ASA. Katherine Brennand requested a motion. Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson made a motion to approve Ilan Averbuch's conceptual rendering of the "Water"; Marina Monsisvais seconded; Rida Asfahani opposed; and motion passed by 5 to 1.
- 6. Discussion on a PAC representative to participate in the Artist Selection Panel for the design concept presentations for the three traffic circles.** Elizabeth Thurmond volunteered, as did Katherine Brennand. Pat reminded Katherine that since the board liaisons to the PAC had not been chosen, she may not be representing the PAC at that time. In conclusion, Elizabeth Thurmond was appointed to participate in the artist selection panel.
- 8. Adjournment.** Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Marina Monsisvais moved to adjourn; Rida Asfahani seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm. Next meeting scheduled for February 14, 2012.

Approved for content by:
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant